

a back end cluster for providing said service to the users of said telecommunication network;

a plurality of telephony access nodes for providing said users of a telecommunication network with local access to said service via a wide area network that connects said back end cluster to said plurality of telephony access nodes; and

a plurality of switches, for interconnecting said users of a telecommunication network with said plurality of telephony access nodes ~~each of which is connected to one of said plurality of telephony access nodes for providing said users with access to said service.~~

2. (Previously presented) A network according to claim 1 wherein said hosted service is a messaging system.

3. (Previously presented) A network according to claim 2 wherein said messaging system is a unified messaging system.

4. (Previously presented) A network according to claim 2 wherein said messaging system is a unified communications system.

5. (Previously presented) A network according to claim 1 wherein one of said plurality of switches is a private branch exchange.

6. (Previously presented) A network according to claim 1 wherein one of said plurality of switches is a key telephone system.

7. (Previously presented) A network according to claim 2 wherein one of said plurality of switches is a private branch exchange.

8. (Previously presented) A network according to claim 2 wherein one of said plurality of switches is a key telephone system.

9. (Currently amended). A method of deploying a hosted service in a telecommunication network, said method comprising the steps of:

providing said service to the users of said network by means of a back end cluster; and

providing local access to said hosted service via a wide area network that connects said back end cluster to a plurality of telephony access nodes; and

providing a plurality of switches which interconnect the plurality of telephony access nodes with the users of the telecommunication network.

10. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein said hosted service is a messaging system.

11. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 10 wherein said messaging system is a unified messaging system.

12. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 10 wherein said messaging system is a unified communications system.

13. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein one of said plurality of switches is a private branch exchange.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein one of said plurality of switches is a key telephone system.